Berkshire County Sheriff's Department – Fact sheet

The Berkshire County Sheriff oversees these prisons:

- Berkshire County house of correction (HOC), for people who have been convicted and sentenced, generally for up to 2½ years;
- Berkshire County jail, for people who have been arrested but have not yet gone to trial.

2015 salary: $157,544 2015 budget: $18,106,000 No. of employees (2015): 213

- Prisoners who have been sentenced: 144 men 0 women
- Prisoners held pre-trial: 84 men 0 women

- Some counties are paid by the state Dept. of Correction to house state prisoners.

  7 male state prisoners 0 female state prisoners

- Some counties are paid by the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement to hold people being held ("detained") for immigration violations. There are no ICE detainees at Barnstable County.

- Some county jails/HOC's are overcrowded. What is the situation in Berkshire County?

  Jail/HOC built for 292 Jail/HOC population 228 (78% occupancy)

- HOC's/jails often hold prisoners in isolation ("solitary confinement") as punishment for violating the rules. No information is available on the number of prisoners who can be held in solitary at one time; please ask the sheriff.

Classes and programs available to prisoners:

- Education – Adult Basic Education, computer literacy, life skills, art, etc.
- Vocational – graphics communication skills (desktop publishing, use of printers, scanners, etc.)
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment unit
- Substance abuse programs – individual & group sessions, addiction & recovery education, relapse prevention, AA/NA, etc.
- Community service – volunteer work in the community
- Work release – paid employment in the community.